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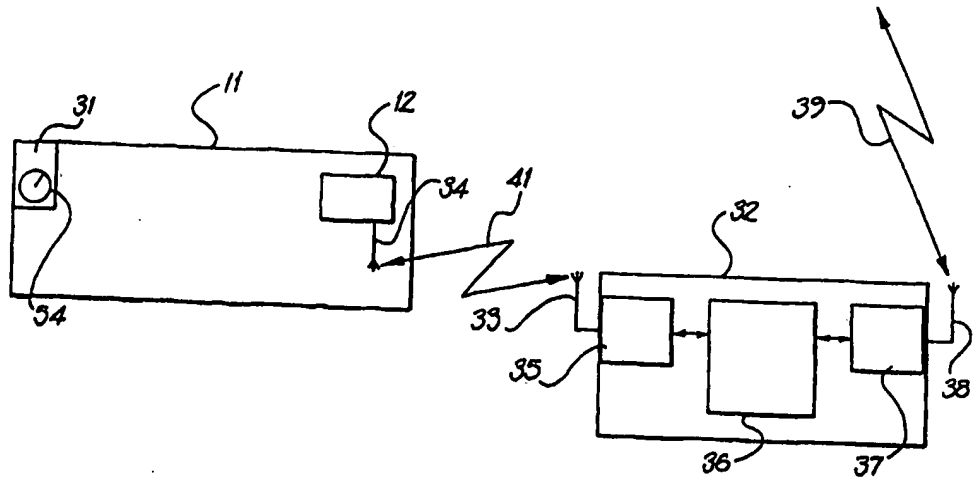
(54) Title: MONITORING OF CONTROLLED MOBILE ENVIRONMENTS



(57) Abstract

A container (11), carries a component (12) of the telemetry system. The container mounted unit (12) transmits via its antenna (34), a signal (41) containing data indicating the status of the container. This signal is received by shipboard transponder (32) including an antenna (33), a first transceiver (35) for communication with shipboard devices such as the container module (12), control unit (36) which monitors and buffers signals for re–transmission and routes incoming signals, and a second transceiver (37) which transmits and receives signals (39), to and from the satellite (15) via its antenna (38). Thus signals from the container mounted module (12) may be relayed via the shipboard relay (32), the satellite (17) and the communications network (19, 20, 21) to the receiver station (22).